

SECURITY INFORMATION

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26 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Resumption of Food and Article Drops over the Balkan Satellite.

REFERENCE: TS Memo from Chief, DE, addressed to the Director of Central Intelligence, dtd 27 July 1953; Same Subject.

1. In response to your request for additional information concerning the availability of supplies in the field for possible future air drops, we have ascertained that the stockpile currently available at the Athens base consists of the following:

- a. 13,555. . . . No. 2 size tin cans.
- b. 1. . . . Electric canning machine.
- c. 4,100. . . . Cloth parachutes, four feet in diameter, with cloth container sacks attached.
- d. 23,000. . . . 1 pound bags of flour. These bags are sealed inside an envelope of heavy aluminum foil and cloth for free fall.
- e. 15,000. . . . Packages of needles of German manufacture, 10 needles per package. 150,000 packages of needles, 5 needles per package, are on stock in Washington.
- f. 15,000. . . . Packages of razor blades, 15 blades per package; 7,500 of Mexican manufacture and 7,500 Gillette red blades.

2. In addition to the above, [] has on hand quantities of macaroni, salt, raisins and rice which were procured on the local market. Because of the perishable and expendable nature of these foodstuffs, the precise quantities presently available to the field are not known, but the obtaining of additional amounts locally presents no difficulty.

3. The total weight of each parachute, cloth container and its contents is 6.9 lbs. with a payload of 5.7 lbs. Each cloth container holds five no. 2 size cans. In previous drops, when C-47 aircraft were used, the total payload of the aircraft amounted to 2,075 lbs., consisting of the parachutes, containers, and free fall flour packages.

4. With a view to

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4. With a view to countering possible Communist charges that the food was poisoned or tainted with bacteria, and to prevent Communist tampering with the materials, precautionary instructions were prepared for enclosure with each package. The future use of sealed cans, on which a permanent warning would be stencilled, reduces to a minimum the hazard of Communist tampering.

5. Samples of the parachutes, cloth containers, and leaflets to which the needles or razor blades are attached, as well as the free fall package, are forwarded herewith for your inspection.

[Chief, SE]

SE/CPI [7] b7c
26 August 1953

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